

A monthly newsletter for the citizens of the City of Rockville

LIVE, Gin Blossoms Headline Hometown Holidays Weekend

One of Rockville’s Biggest Shows Ever Coming May 29

Rockville’s annual Hometown Holidays, the Washington metropolitan area’s biggest Memorial Day Weekend celebration, will have a new look this year as the City embarks on building a new Town Center.

However, one thing will not change: Hometown Holidays again will have a major display of free music on its main downtown stage.

Rockville’s Mayor and Council on April 12 approved chart-topping groups LIVE and Gin Blossoms to headline the traditional free concert on the Town Center main stage for Saturday night, May 29.

The City expects that the 16th annual Hometown Holidays concert will be one of the

biggest shows ever since the event’s conception.

The May 29-31 weekend of activities will include the Ride for Rockville bicycle festival beginning at 9 a.m. on Sunday, May 30. The events will conclude with 60th the annual Rockville Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 31.

The development of Phase I of the new Rockville Town Center, which will have groundbreaking later this spring, has led to the revised version of Hometown Holidays as the City prepares to add an exciting mix of retail, restaurant, cultural, entertainment, residential and office spaces in the heart of the City.

Two new main activities of interest will be the Rockville

Arts Festival and kids’ craft activities by Rockville Arts Place on Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. The Arts Festival, produced by Howard Alan Events, will have more than 150 local and regional artisans showcasing and selling their colorful creatives.

“Everyone will find something to enjoy throughout the weekend,” said Mike Henry, Rockville’s coordinator of special events. “Although we have only one night of music this year, I think all will agree that this line-up is hard to top.”

LIVE first performed together 17 years ago in a middle school talent contest in York, Pa. Since then, the band has sold more than 20 million albums. LIVE was named ‘Rock

Artist of The Year’ at the 1995 Billboard Music Awards.

Gin Blossoms have officially reunited for a tour and future projects and will have a 60-date tour this summer. With their timeless harmonies and power-pop driven songs, the band unleashed a string of hits that included the No. 1 hit “Til I Hear It From You.” [RR](#)

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This Year’s FSF Awardee



LIVE, whose hits include “Lightening Crashes “and “I Alone,” will perform at Rockville’s Hometown Holidays on Saturday, May 29. Its most recent single, “Heaven,” also can be heard on the radio.

Plans for Art in Town Center

Rockville’s new Town Center will have an exciting mix of retail, restaurant and entertainment. It will be anchored by the new Rockville Regional Library and have a multi-use public town plaza. There will be residences, office space and even a new cultural arts building.

However, the unique identity of Phase I of Rockville’s new downtown—which is being called “Rockville Town Square” by private developer RD Rockville, LLC—may be significantly shaped by the art and amenities complementing the buildings.

At a recent Mayor and Council worksession, Charles Zucker of Lee and Associates, a landscape architecture and urban design firm, presented a menu of ideas on how to best include art in Town Center. A task force will now consider the presentation and create a way to implement the best choices.

Over much of the past year, Zucker has met with Rockville stakeholders including citizens, business owners and representatives of area arts organizations.

Zucker told the Mayor and Council that creating an art-filled environment in Town Center can be accomplished in many ways, including using murals, sculpture and unique entrances to the area. These could be placed in such a way as to draw visitors around Town Center through a hierarchy of primary and secondary intersections, gateways, event areas, parking systems, and signage—including art.

The plans discussed particularly focused on Maryland Avenue, which will be part of Phase I of Town Center development, and Stonestreet Avenue, which is just east of the Phase I area. The Mayor and Council are already looking toward redevelopment of Stonestreet Avenue, examining a connection of Park



Complementing artwork will influence the new Town Square.

Street and Middle Lane.

Zucker suggested creating “delight with light,” using lighting features to emphasize walkways and important gateways in Town Center or placing a fountain at the end of a street to add emphasis to those areas.

The Mayor and Council reacted favorably to the suggestions.

“Almost every single one [of these ideas] is what I would like to see,” said Councilmember Susan Hoffmann. [RR](#)

Proposed FY 05 Budget: Tax Rate Unchanged

Rockville Acting City Manager Catherine Tuck Parrish on April 12 proposed a \$74.5 million operating budget for Fiscal Year 2005 that reflects fulfilling the five major goals of the Mayor and Council, but keeps the property tax rate unchanged at 32.2 cents per \$100 of assessed property.

The proposed operating budget represents a net increase of 6.6 percent over the modified FY 2004 budget, net of appropriated fund balance in the General Fund.

The City’s continued growth and increased property assessments are major factors in the budget. General fund revenue growth projects an increase in real property tax revenue of \$1.7 million (7.6 percent over the FY 2004 modified amount).

“This proposed budget reflects the Mayor and Council’s goals, provides for premium programs and services and supports the

City’s infrastructure,” said Tuck Parrish. “It also looks toward the future, considering important

trends that will affect how we provide and pay for services. And it shows strong support

for the Mayor and Council’s top priority: Create a vibrant Town Center.”

The Capital Improvements Program (CIP), which includes projected funding for future projects over the next six years, incorporates \$141.7 million of community enhancements. Among the items targeted for Rockville’s future in the CIP are three parking garages to support Phase I of the new Town Center development; a new stand alone police facility (City Police now occupy tight space in the lower floor of City Hall); and the West Rockville Recreation Center, which will be the first City community recreation center west of I-270. [RR](#)

NEXT STEP

✓ May 3 public hearing

May’s Best of Rockville

May 9

Mother’s Day Princess Tea Party. Kids ages 3-10 and a special woman in their life are invited to celebrate Mother’s Day at Twinbrook Recreation Center. \$5 for residents/\$7 for non-residents. Call 240-314-5037 for more.

May 15

Saturday Farmers’ Market Opens. Purchase fresh fruits, vegetables and more at the annual Rockville Growers Only Farmers’ Market, now at the corner of Jefferson and Monroe Streets, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., every Saturday.



May 15

Senior Center Spring Bazaar and Yard Sale. Purchase hand-made crafts, homemade refreshments, baked goods, household items, plants and computers from 9 a.m.-1 p.m at the Rockville Senior Center.

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Focus on GPS TECHNOLOGY

Rockville has many programs that affect the lives of residents. On a regular basis, “Focus On” will take an introspective look at these programs and detail the impact they have for City residents.

If a sign falls down or somehow becomes missing in Rockville, the City will know exactly where it goes back. Particularly in the case of stop signs, replacing the signs could literally be a life saver.

The City’s ability to determine the status of signs is one use of a computer-based tool for mapping and analyzing features that exist on the surface of the Earth called a Global Positioning System (GPS). Rockville has been a national leader in innovative uses of GPS.

For the past four years, the City of Rockville has been using GPS, instead of commissioning costly surveys, to accurately catalog and map things many people might not normally notice—things such as signs along a bike trail or bus benches. However, it is vital that the hundreds of signs, benches and even parking meters in the City are properly monitored and replaced when needed.

Rockville has gradually been plotting the location and status of items that can be cataloged by GPS. Employees wearing backpacks with GPS receivers match signals with several of 24 satellites circling the globe to pinpoint the exact location of an object. This information is then fed into the City’s computerized mapping system called GIS, or Geographic Information System.

A combined effort of City departments created a new printed City map in 2003 based upon GIS information. By owning the rights to the City map, instead of contracting to out-



**PLOTTING THE WAY...
Bikeway Coordinator Jeff Radin, with the mobil GPS equipment, stops to mark a city sign. He uses the equipment to determine the exact location of signs along the City’s bikeways.**

side map-making companies as most U.S. jurisdictions still do, Rockville will save money and ensure accuracy whenever the map needs to be updated for future printings.

In addition to staff use, some benefits of GIS already are available to the public. Some of the City’s GIS maps are available on www.rockville.md.gov/gis, which residents can easily use to display images of Rockville’s neighborhoods, parks, streets, facilities and even plot their individual street addresses.

“Every year we change the route of the City’s annual May bicycle tour fundraiser that benefits children, ‘Ride for Rockville’,” said Betsy Thompson, recreation program development coordinator. “Using this technology, we can precisely plan a new route and easily plot a map. And it even tells us how many miles are between stops. It is exciting to think of how many uses we will find for this technology.” **RR**

On the Move: A New Home for NCS

Rockville’s Department of Neighborhood and Community Services is moving to a new home, but some of the divisions are staying in the same Town Center neighborhood. Same street, too.

The department’s divisions of Code Enforcement/Community Enhancement, Community Programs and Administration and Youth and Family Services will move in May to 20 Courthouse Square in Town Center, further helping unite the multi-dimensional department. Code Enforcement was previously housed at City Hall, while the other divisions were at 32 Courthouse Square.

The move will bring the divisions together, enabling better collaboration between employees and opening up much needed space for other departments at City Hall.

“Many of the code issues often spill over into Youth and Family Services,” said Guerdon Stuckey, director of Neighborhood and

Community Services. “Working in closer proximity will foster even more teamwork among the divisions.”

Even though the address will change in May, the services and phone numbers will remain the same. An open house for residents is planned at the new facility this fall.

“Because our department is only two years old, the open house will not only show off our new location, but also introduce the community to the many services we provide,” said Stuckey.

These services include code enforcement, grant administration, case management and counseling and youth programs.

The Division of Neighborhood Service Coordinators, which also is part of Neighborhood and Community Services, will remain at City Hall. That division works closely with many other departments in City Hall. **RR**

City Projects UPDATE

RECREATION & PARKS

City Hall Improvements • Reorganization and renovation of second and third floor interior spaces plus improvements to the Bouic House for improved use efficiencies. Design in final stage • Construction to take approximately 18 months beginning in summer.

Dawson Farm Park • Construction of granary in historically sensitive manner and to serve as a park shelter/gazebo is 95 percent complete. • Artwork, historic markers and wooden bridge renovation to begin in early summer.

Dog Park • King Farm 28-acre park preliminary plan includes the Dog Park and will be presented at public design meeting scheduled for May.

Gude Drive Facility Improvements • Modernization and expansion of the City’s Public Works and Parks maintenance complex in four phases • Phase I includes replacement of salt dome, storm water management upgrades, access improvements and improved debris storage. Construction bids in summer.

I-270/Route 28 Bike/Pedestrian Bridge • Separate bridge for pedestrians and bicyclists parallel to Route 28 on south side across I-270 to connect Hurley Avenue and Nelson Street bikeways • TEA-21 grant for \$3,124,421 received from State Highway Administration • Construction scheduled to begin in fall.

King Farm Farmstead • Demolition of the long shed and porches on small house has been completed • Study underway for converting the Hay Drying Shed into a picnic shelter • Grading for the berm between Farmstead and auto dealership is complete. Work in compliance with task force recommendations with HDC approvals.

King Farm 28-Acre Park • Public design meeting scheduled for May.

Millennium Trail • Norbeck Road multi-use path from East Gude Drive to Veirs Mill Road. Construction bids awarded • Construction to begin this spring and is expected to be completed September • Veirs Mill Road to Edmonston Drive currently in design • Majority of cost for both projects covered by TEA-21 grants awarded by State Highway Administration.

Playground Equipment Improvements • Replacement equipment at Maryvale Park and Elwood Smith Park is being designed with input from neighborhood children • Equipment installation is expected to begin in summer.

Rockville Senior Center • Expansion of dining room and kitchen renovations and improvements • Funding support from Maryland

Office on Aging and Rockville Seniors, Inc. • Construction is underway. Estimated completion date is August.

Science Center Feasibility Study • Will study design and site options, program feasibility, services and funding opportunities for proposed new Rockville Science Center. Task Force made up of Science Consortium Board members and residents has begun to meet. • Request for Proposal for consulting services is out to bid.

Swim Center • Interactive water playground or “sprayground” to be added to outdoor complex for summer season. Construction is underway.

Urban Forest Renewal • Removal of aging and hazardous trees in Twinbrook, Fallsmead, Potomac Woods and other neighborhoods is ongoing • Replacement planting stake place in the spring and fall.

PUBLIC WORKS

GENERAL PROJECTS

Asphalt Maintenance • Two additional streets, Mannakee Street from Route 355 to the rear of Montgomery College, and Ardennes Avenue, will be milled to a two-inch depth and overlaid in late spring • The streets that were postponed last fall to allow Washington Gas to complete gas main replacements will be accomplished as part of the FY 05 project which will start in late summer. Those streets include Cedar Court, Cedar Lane from Grandin Avenue to Marshall Avenue, Dean Drive from Grandin Avenue to Bernard Place, McCaulliffe Drive from Cedar Lane to Patton Place and Patton Place.

Cabin John Parkway Dead End • Pavement has been removed from area to be restored • Restoration expected to be completed after storm drain is installed to accommodate the improvements to the intersection of Leverton Road and Cabin John Parkway • Construction of the storm drain has started and completion is expected in late spring.

TRANSPORTATION

Bike/Pedestrian Improvements • Route 28 and Great Falls Road planned for summer • Beall Elementary School sidewalk improvements under study • The lighted crosswalk on Twinbrook Parkway to provide access to the Twinbrook Recreation Center is complete • The Chapman Avenue lighted crosswalk is complete • Nelson Street crosswalk for access to park planned for fall.

Falls Grove Funded Transportation Improvements • Majority of the projects are complete • Those yet to be finished include Gude Drive and Gaither Road; I-270 and Shady Grove Road (to be started in fall); and I-270, Route 28 and Nelson Street (to be started in fall).

Hurley Avenue Traffic Calming •

Traffic circle at Feather Rock Place is complete • Intersection modification at Sherbrooke to begin in late spring.

STREAM AND STORM-WATER IMPROVEMENTS
Congressional Tower Storm Drain Repair • Rehabilitation of the 90-inch metal pipe that runs under the Congressional Towers high rise apartment complex parking lot on Jefferson Street is completed.

Frost Stream Restoration • 1,600 feet of stream between Wootton High School and Frost Middle School and down to Scott Drive will be restored • Construction planned for summer.

Red Gate Golf Course NE Park Stormwater Management Retrofits • Modify existing SWM facilities and improve 600 feet of stream in Rock Creek drainage area • One pond is on the golf course and the other is next to Gude Drive • Construction planned for summer.

Woottons Mill Stream Improvement • 4,400 feet of stream restoration is being designed • Stream restoration is from Watts Branch Parkway to Wootton Parkway in Woottons Mill Park • Pedestrian access to be maintained • Construction planned for summer.

UTILITIES

Adclare Water Main Replacement • Replacement of approximately 620 feet of 6-inch water main in Adclare Road with 8-inch water main is planned • Design has started and construction is expected to begin in January '05.

Glen Mill Pump Station • This project will provide the additional pumping capacity needed to make use of the increased capacity at the Water Treatment Plant • The design is complete • Construction is expected to begin in July.

North Horners Lane Utilities Improvement • Water main upgrade planned between Southlawn Lane and Westmore Avenue • Stream restoration is included • Construction to begin late winter.

Sewer Rehabilitation • Sewer evaluation survey, including flow monitoring and video inspection of underground piping for the southeastern area of Twinbrook, has been completed and the results have been evaluated • Prioritization of repairs based upon cost effectiveness • Construction planned for summer '05.

Water Treatment Plant • A major upgrade in the treatment plant to allow a maximum daily production of 14 million gallons is essentially complete • Construction of covers over the filter wells has begun • An emergency generator will be added in summer • Improvements to sludge handling facilities are being studied.



LOCOMOTIVE LOVE... *The Maryland Central Model Railroad Club will turn the inside of this historic garage at King Farm into its meeting and model exhibition space, which will eventually be open to the public.*

Model Railroad Club Coming to King Farm

“Maryland Central” Sets Up in Rockville; Residents to View Train Exhibits in Future

The trains that once roared through Rockville are about to return—just at a smaller size.

The Maryland Central Model Railroad Club (MCMRC) has made an agreement with the City that will allow the 30-member club to bring alive the five-car garage on the historic King Farm Farmstead with scale-model trains and scenery. The garage, whose train exhibitions eventually will be open for public viewing, also will have meeting space.

Utilization of the five-car garage is a first step as the City works to restore the Farmstead into a lively park. The Farmstead is the remainder of the long-time dairy farm that mostly has been transformed into the King Farm community, one of the Washington area’s most innovative new mixed-

used developments.

MCMRC members mostly hail from the Maryland suburbs of Washington. The group typically meets weekly to combine their unique talents and interests for model railroading.

“There are so many aspects of the hobby and different people specialize in different aspects,” said MCMRC President Tom Matty, who has been a fan of trains since he was 4. “Some are into electronics and control systems, while others like recreating scenery, building landscapes or faithfully reproducing models of diesel locomotives. Others simply like to run the trains. The synergy of all the individual pieces come together to give you a much more tremendous product.”

The group has existed for nearly 50 years and has displayed its model railroads in

the Rockville Train Station, the National Capital Trolley Museum and for the last 22 years in a church in Silver Spring. Upon losing that lease agreement, they began to search for new club space.

MCMRC will lease the garage for 10 years at an annual lease rate of \$1,200 per year. The agreement was endorsed by the King Farm Farmstead Task Force, which includes several King Farm residents. The Task Force has been working on various methods of restoring the Farmstead.

MCMRC likely will pay some of its rent in “sweat equity,” receiving credit for reno-



A club member works on a display in Tom Matty’s home basement.

vation work done on the garage. The outside appearance of the facility will remain unchanged.

The group has begun its clean-up work and the remainder of the renovations are expected to take about a year before the group can start setting up the trains. The public likely will be able to view the trains in about two years.

For more information visit www.mcmrr.com, call 301-340-5444 or e-mail info@mcmrr.com. **RR**

They’re Back: 17 Years Later, Cicadas Return

No, it is not a scene from a horror movie. However, the emergence this month of the harmless, but loud, periodical cicadas likely will startle some Rockville residents.

After 17 years underground, millions of cicada nymphs along the East Coast will crawl out of the ground, climb up tree trunks or other vertical objects, shed their skins and transform themselves into one and half-inch-long, black-winged and red-eyed insects. Many experts believe the soil reaching a temperature of 64 degrees will trigger the cicadas to leave their terrestrial holes and tunnels made of mud and head for the trees to morph into the flying insects.

The 17-year cycle between cicada appearances is one of the unexplained mysteries of nature.

Those who experienced the last emergence in 1987 may remember populations as large as 100,000 per acre disrupting outdoor events and sounding off with loud—almost deafening—mating calls. By June, their purpose will be served: the males will locate a mate, the females will lay their eggs in the branches of trees, and the adults will all die.

While cicadas can be bothersome, they are not dangerous to humans or pets. They do not bite or sting. It is recommended that pet owners try to keep dogs and cats from eating cicadas because the insect’s hard exoskeleton can cause gastro-intestinal problems if ingested.

“There is not much that residents can do, except try to



Photo Credit Gaye Williams/Maryland Dept. of Agriculture

Millions of the periodical cicadas will return to Rockville this month.

appreciate and maybe even enjoy this unique natural event,” said Pamela Rowe, the City’s Environmental Specialist. “It’s an amazing experience.”

Cicadas will not significantly affect most large, healthy trees. Small trees, however, can be damaged by the female egg laying, which can cause browning, breakage and scarring on affected branches. Residents can protect small trees by wrapping them in fine netting.

Many people confuse cicadas with locusts, but they are different species. Periodical cicadas also are different from dog day cicadas, which are larger in size, mostly green with black eyes, and appear each August in small numbers.

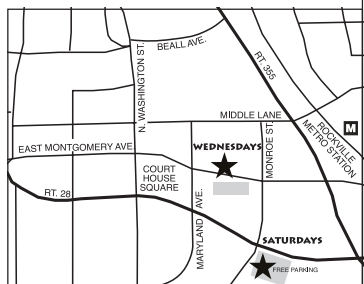
For more information, including how to make cicadas into a snack, visit www.urhome.umd.edu/newdesk/scitech/cicadas.cfm **RR**

Farmers’ Market Plows into New Location on May 15

The annual Rockville Growers Only Farmers’ Market will begin on Saturday, May 15, but in a new location this year due to the anticipated construction in Rockville’s Town Center.

The Montgomery County Jurors’ parking lot at the corner of Jefferson and Monroe Streets will now be the site to purchase some of the area’s freshest fruits, vegetables, perennial and cut flowers, baked goods and more. The market will take place every Saturday from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. until Oct. 30. Visitors will be able to both park and shop in the new location, which is across from the Americana Centre condominiums.

Also look for the Farmers’ Market as part of the *Out To Lunch Wednesdays* street festival held every Wednesday from 11 a.m.- 2 p.m. beginning on June 2 at East Montgomery Ave. **RR**



The annual Rockville Grower’s Only Farmers Market will take place Saturdays in the parking lot at the corner of Jefferson and Monroe streets this year.

Got Housing Issues? Try this

Tenants, landlords and homeowners in Rockville now have an excellent and easily accessible source of information for housing questions and problems.

Rockville’s landlord/tenant office is a division of the City’s Department of Neighborhood and Community Services. The office is currently located at 32 Courthouse Square in Town Center, but in May will be moving a few doors away to 20 Courthouse Square.

Many people think the office deals only with rental issues, but Raymond Logan, the City’s landlord/tenant specialist stresses he also is available to discuss questions or problems being experienced by homeowners.

For information, call 240-314-8219 or email rlogan@rockvillemd.gov. **RR**



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The Rockville Channel (TRC 11) is your source for news on local issues, services and events in Rockville.

- ✓ Mayor and Council Policy Discussion and Action
- ✓ Community Policing
- ✓ Recreation and Parks Facilities, Programs and Events
- ✓ Planning/Land Use Discussion and Action
- ✓ In Depth/Full Length Special Topics
- ✓ Emergency Updates

Look for our programming schedule on page 8 or online at www.rockvillemd.gov





INTRODUCING ROCKO... *German Shepherd Rocko (named in honor of Rockville) is the City's first K-9 in 20 years. Officer Kyle Dickerson is the other member of the Department's new Canine Unit.*

Rocko: Putting Bark On the Rockville Beat

The City of Rockville Police Department gained a new member recently, and although he will be properly outfitted like the rest of City force, he will not be the usual person in blue.

Rocko, a 14-month old Ger-

man Shepherd, is the first K-9 dog in more than 20 years to patrol Rockville's streets as part of a new Canine Unit program.

The canine program was made possible through about \$10,000 in private donations to

the City's Fraternal Order of Police Lodge No. 117.

Rocko, who is 70 pounds and has a blended brown/black/sand fur coat, was born in the Czech Republic and eventually made his way to Connecticut. There he participated in a rigorous review and testing process to become one of the two-person team of the new City of Rockville K-9 unit.

The other member of the team is Officer Kyle Dickerson, a five-year Rockville Police veteran. Dickerson was chosen for the role in part because he has been around dogs all of his life and has trained hunting dogs.

"This is an excellent opportunity to integrate my love for dogs and experience working with them into my police work," he said.

Rocko is still learning the basics of everyday obedience. He eventually will be used for searching for illegal items in buildings and vehicles and even on people. In addition, he can be used to locate missing persons, track articles and help protect his fellow human officers.

"Rocko can cover the same search area as 20 officers," Dickerson said. "He will help us be even more effective than we are now." [RR](#)

Mediate, Don't Litigate Free City Program Can Help Solve Disputes Without Lawyers

Whether it is a neighbor's child listening to loud music or a consumer who feels he or she may have been excluded at a store based on race, there are a myriad of conflicts the City of Rockville can help residents resolve through its free mediation program.

The Rockville Mediation Program, which is administered by the City's Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, helps neighbors, employers, employees, tenants, landlords, business owners, customers, organizations or even friends with a variety of issues. It helps to resolve disputes rather than having those involved seek the assistance of a lawyer and go to court.

Since August 1995, Rockville's Human Rights Commission has sponsored the program.

"Talk it Out to Work it Out" is the program's slogan. For each mediation session, there are two trained neutral mediators that facilitate communication between participants.

"This program presents a tremendous opportunity for folks who live or work in Rockville," said Michael Berman, Human Rights commissioner. "As opposed to the win-lose outcomes produced in courts – outcomes that can wreak havoc on the relationships, stress levels, and wallets of those involved – mediation is a win-win. It's a great alternative."

For more information on the program, call Janet Kelly, Rockville's Human Rights/Community Mediation administrator, at 240-314-8316. [RR](#)

Mediar, no legislar Programa gratuito de la Ciudad ayuda a resolver controversias

Ya sea el hijo de un vecino que escucha música muy fuerte o un consumidor que cree que fue discriminado en una tienda por motivos raciales, estos son algunos de los innumerables conflictos de sus residentes que la Ciudad de Rockville puede ayudar a resolver con su programa gratuito de mediación.

El Programa de Mediación de Rockville, administrado por el Departamento de Servicios Vecinales y Comunitarios de la Ciudad, ayuda a vecinos actuales o antiguos, empleadores, empleados, arrendatarios, terratenientes, dueños de empresas, clientes, organizaciones o aún a amigos con respecto a una variedad de problemas, en lugar de pedirles que busquen la ayuda de un abogado y vayan a la corte.

Desde agosto de 1995, la Comisión de Derechos Humanos de Rockville patrocina este programa con la finalidad de ofrecer a sus ciudadanos una manera de abordar y resolver los conflictos sin pagar las costosas tarifas de la corte o los honorarios de un abogado.

"Convérselo y resuélvalo" es el lema del programa. Para cada sesión de mediación, hay dos mediadores neutrales capacitados en facilitar la comunicación entre los participantes. Al mantenerse neutrales, sin hacer juicios de valor, y al no imponer una solución a los participantes, los mediadores cumplen con la función de ayudarlos a crear convenios propios para resolver sus problemas," dijo Michael Berman, Comisionado de Derechos Humanos.

Para más información, llame a Janet Kelly al 240-314-8316. [RR](#)

— Translated by
Victoria Imas-Duchovny

Parking Meter Changes

*Twinbrook Area Reduced to 25 Cents Per Hour;
Some Town Center Meters Now 30 Minutes*

Regular drivers who frequent the Twinbrook Metro and East Montgomery Avenue areas should note some important changes to several of the City's parking meters as part of a new pilot project.

Last month, the City of Rockville reduced the parking rates at 145 meters near Twinbrook Metro. The rates were cut on an experimental basis from 50 to 25 cents per hour to encourage more use of the new street meters that were recently installed in the area.

In March, the City made another modification to its parking program by changing two-hour meters on the south side of East Montgomery Avenue (immediately in front of the restaurants, movie theater and other businesses in Town Center) to 30-minute meters.

The more rapid turnover of spaces is expected to make it convenient for drivers who are

on East Montgomery Avenue to pick up takeout orders of food, wait for people coming out of the theater or get something quick from one of the shops.

"From the start of our parking program, we knew we would be making adjustments once we saw how patterns were being established," said Mike England, Rockville police captain. "In the case of parking around the Twinbrook Metro Station and on East Montgomery Avenue, these are adjustments that will benefit commuters and the City."

The newest meters located around Twinbrook Metro Station accept new, prepaid parking cards, which provide added convenience for regular parkers. The cards can be used at the 394 newest meters around Rockville and are available for purchase from the cashier at Rockville City Hall. [RR](#)



This new shelter is near the Rockville Library in Town Center.

New Bus Stop Shelters Arrive in Rockville

Rockville residents who sometimes must brave the weather to ride area buses found their commute becoming a little easier recently, with the installation last month of six new bus shelters around the City. The new refuges are part of a Department of Public Works Traffic and Transportation Division project that involves installing a total of 25 bus shelters throughout the City, likely by the end of the summer.

The new shelters will look the same as existing bus shelters in the City that are maintained by Montgomery County. The six newest shelters in Rockville are located at: Chapman Ave. and Bouic Ave., near the Twinbrook Metro Station; East Jefferson Street between Congressional Lane and Halpine Road; on the corner of East Jefferson Street and Maryland Ave; and Tower Oaks

Boulevard, near Montrose Road and the I-270 entrance.

Contributions by developers working on projects in the City funded some of the new shelters, which are placed near the associated developments. The rest of the shelters will be funded by a \$50,000 grant awarded to the City by the Maryland Transit Administration, under the Smart Growth Transit Program.

Bus stop usage, neighborhood interest and available right-of-way space will determine the locations for the other shelters that will be added in the coming months.

With the addition of the six new shelters, there are a total of 477 bus stops and 48 bus shelters in the City. The Mayor and Council continue to evaluate ways to add even more bus shelters, which are estimated to cost about \$7,000 per unit. [RR](#)

INSIDE MAYOR & COUNCIL

A Glimpse into the City Government at Work



KEEPING THEIR SLICE OF ROCKVILLE: *The Mayor and Council on April 17 continued to see their pledge fulfilled to help all businesses that would need to be relocated as a result of the new Town Center development. Welcoming the new Giuseppe's Pizza Plus on East Montgomery Avenue were, front, left to right: Co-owners Scott and Sue Feldman and Councilmember John Hall, Jr. In back: Maryland District 17 Delegate Michael Gordon; Mayor Larry Giammo; Councilmembers Bob Dorsey, Anne Robbins and Susan Hoffmann; and District 17 State Senator Jennie Forehand.*

FY2005 CIP Budget Funds West Rockville Rec Center

A new multi-use recreation center is being planned for west Rockville, and the Mayor and Council are ready to see those plans get moving for the facility that will benefit youngsters, senior citizens and those of all ages in between.

The City's proposed FY 2005 Capital Improvements Program budget includes funding for the \$3.33 million project, including \$336,000 for design in FY 05 and \$3 million for construction in FY 06. The project first appeared in the City's long-term budgeting process four years ago.

The new facility, which will be the City's only recreation center west of I-270, will be located in the new Falls Grove community near the intersection of West Gude Drive and West Montgomery Avenue. Ideas on specific elements of the center will be gained through a public input process that will be part of the planning stage.

In March, Councilmember Anne Robbins testified in Annapolis before a committee of the

House of Delegates and Councilmember John Hall, Jr., testified before a committee of the State Senate in support of House Bill 1517 that requested \$300,000 in state funding toward the project. The bill did not make it through the General Assembly, but Rockville could reapply for state funding help next year.

In her testimony, Robbins stressed the importance the new recreation center will have to a wide range of residents.

"The need for this facility is great," said Robbins. "Capacity at Rockville's only senior facility is running short, but the growth in Rockville's senior population continues to expand significantly. Similarly, after-school programs across the City attract increasing numbers of Rockville youth to constructive, supervised activities during after-school hours. Yet, despite the success of these programs, the City has no facility west of I-270 to house activities for the many students and seniors who live in this part of town." **RR**

Not Ad-ing Up: Advertising Remains Banned from City Publications

The Mayor and Council have decided to continue a ban on advertising in City publications after the members of Rockville's governing body could not agree on a policy setting limits for acceptable ads.

The Department of Recreation and Parks proposed selling ads in some publications to help defray production and program costs. Recreation staff studying the issue estimated that allowing businesses to advertise in the Antique and Classic Car Show program, the Recreation and Parks Guide, the Senior Center monthly calendar and on the backs of tickets for F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre perfor-

mances and other special events could raise up to \$24,000 annually for the City.

At the March 29 General Session, some members of the Mayor and Council said that companies marketing products such as alcohol and tobacco should not be allowed to advertise in City publications. However, there also was some sentiment that the City should not pick and choose who would be able to promote their products.

"I appreciate the effort for cost savings," said Mayor Larry Giammo. "But for me, advertising is an all or nothing thing. People are overwhelmed on a daily basis. I don't think we

Next Station: Twinbrook Commons

Much of Rockville's development focus over the past several years has concerned Town Center. However, a rapidly-moving plan for a large mixed-used development near the Twinbrook Metro station continues to take shape.

A major question remains about Twinbrook Commons, which is being developed by JBG on behalf of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA, or better known as Metro), the owner of the site. It is still unresolved whether the entire 26-acre project will become part of the City, or whether about one-third will be in Rockville and two-thirds will remain under the jurisdiction of Montgomery County.

JBG has been working on developing the property for more than five years, talking with City staff and groups from the Twinbrook neighborhood, which borders the project. On March 29, JBG presented further details in a worksession with the Mayor and Council.

The project would include 360,000 square feet of office space, approximately 1,288 residential units and 160,000 square

feet of retail space. All of the plan is centered around the convenience provided by the Twinbrook Metro station.

The developer and the City have been discussing the possibility of the approximately 16 acres of the plan that are now part of Montgomery County (land east of the Metro tracks) being annexed into Rockville. An annexation would allow Twinbrook Commons to be developed under the authority and regulations of a single jurisdiction. The City would benefit by having more control over the entire plan and through the eventual tax additions.

This subject, however, has remained unresolved significantly because JBG would like some buildings in the plan to exceed the 75-foot height limits allowed by City zoning. JBG is interested in erecting a building as high as 175 feet (about 18 stories). Rockville also is concerned about increased traffic impacts that could result from the development.

The Mayor and Council asked that the City and the developer continue discussions that could lead to the entire development becoming part of Rockville. **RR**

Citizens Weigh In on New City Manager

The Mayor and Council have pledged that they would seek input from all segments of Rockville in their search for a new city manager, and on April 20, they heard what 50 residents would like to see in the City's new city manager.

At the special summit at City Hall, the Mayor and Council heard many descriptions of a strong city manager. Common themes included finding a city manager who was a strong

leader, showed innovation, was accessible and could make sure programs were seen through to completion.

Citizens broke into five groups, each facilitated by a member of the Mayor and Council. Before the evening was over, each member of the Mayor and Council talked with several of the groups to gain a wide-range of opinions.

This information was collected by the firm hired by the Mayor and Council to conduct the search. **RR**



Mayor
Larry Giammo



Councilmember
Robert E. (Bob) Dorsey



Councilmember
John F. Hall, Jr.



Councilmember
Susan R. Hoffmann



Councilmember
Anne M. Robbins

Mayor & Council Drop In

The Mayor and one Councilmember are available to meet with residents on a drop-in basis in the Mayor and Council office at City Hall from 5:30-6:30 p.m. on Mondays (unless otherwise noted) when there is a General Session or Public Hearing. Call the City Clerk's Office (240-314-8280) as drop-in times are subject to change.

In addition to Mayor Larry Giammo, Councilmembers scheduled for May are:

- **May 10:** Anne Robbins
- **May 17:** Bob Dorsey
- **May 24:** John Hall, Jr.

Mayor & Council Meetings

All General Sessions, Worksessions and Public Hearings are televised on The Rockville Channel, and are available on streaming video at: www.rockvillemd.gov. All meetings are subject to change.

- **May 3 (Mon.)** Public Hearing (Budget No. 2), 7 p.m.
- **May 10 (Mon.)** General Session, 7 p.m.
- **May 11 (Tues.)** Worksession (Budget No. 1), 7 p.m.
- **May 17 (Tues.)** Worksession (Budget No. 2), 7 p.m.
- **May 24 (Mon.)** General Session, 7 p.m.

Boards & Commissions Vacancies

The City is seeking applicants for appointment to the following:

- Animal Matters Board (one)
- Human Rights Commission (two)
- Human Services Advisory Commission (one)
- Landlord/Tenant (one/tenant)
- Rec & Parks Advisory Board (one)
- Rockville Sister City Corp. (one)
- Senior Citizens Commission (one)

• Traffic & Transportation (one)
For more information, contact the Office of the City Clerk at 240-314-8280.

Please note: The Commission on the Environment is seeking volunteer (non-appointed) members for its Network on the Environment. Anyone interested should call 240-314-8212 or e-mail pamelarowe@rockvillemd.gov.

Amazing Grace: Paley to Receive F. Scott Fitzgerald Award on Oct. 23

Award-winning writer, poet and activist Grace Paley will be presented with the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Award for Outstanding Achievement in American Literature at the ninth annual F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference on Oct. 23 at Montgomery College in Rockville.

Paley will join a list of great American writers who have accepted the award at the conference that continues to grow in national stature.

Paley is widely known for her collections of short stories and poems including "The Little Disturbances of Man" (1959), "Enormous Changes at the Last Minute" (1974) and "Later the Same Day" (1985).

"We are thrilled that Grace Paley will continue our tradition of having the best of the best accept the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Award," said John Moser, the conference chairman. "Her appearance,



Grace Paley

combined with the outstanding speakers and workshops we have planned, promise to make this the most successful conference we have had." Born in the Bronx in 1922, Paley was the daughter of Russian-Jewish immigrants who had an important influence on her life as a writer and political activist. A member of the War Resisters League, she opposed American involvement in the Vietnam War and was a member of a peace mission to Hanoi. In addition, she attended the World Peace Conference in 1974 and in 1985 visited Nicaragua and El Salvador, after having campaigned against the U.S. government's policies toward

these countries.

Paley entered Hunter College in New York City when she was only 15 and later attended New York University, but did not stay for a degree. "I really went to school on poetry," she said. "I learned whatever I know about writing and craft from writing poems."

She went on to teach at Sarah Lawrence University, where one of her best-known students was Alice Walker, author of "The Color Purple."

In addition to receiving the award, Paley will speak to the hundreds of conference attendees, read from one of her works and will talk with the winners of the F. Scott Fitzgerald short story contests.

Previous winners of the F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Award were William Styron, John Barth, Joyce Carol Oates, E.L. Doctorow, Norman Mailer, Ernest J. Gaines, John Updike and Edward Albee. **RR**

Maryvale Youth Draw Their Community Art Exhibit and Coloring Books on Display This Month Celebrate Favorite Parts of East Rockville and Lincoln Park

Nearly 60 second graders at Maryvale Elementary School are showing off their artistic talents and pride for their East Rockville and Lincoln Park neighborhoods in May through an exhibit at Rockville City Hall.

The students' artwork, depicting favorite aspects of their communities, will be on display in the City Hall upper atrium throughout the month. Some drawings also will be made into coloring books and distributed to citizens throughout the City via community associations and Maryvale Elementary.

The project is organized by the City's Historic Preservation Office in honor of historic preservation

month in Maryland. May also is the month when Rockville first earned its name and the land that has become known as Rockville was legally divided and registered with the State in 1803.

"It fits with our curriculum and it's a great way for [the children] to have an awareness about the community they live in and the school they attend," said Eric Davis, the school's principal. "It is a wonderful opportunity for our students to display their ideas."

In April, the students were asked to create original artwork about something that was important to them in their neighborhood.

Adults have been discussing

their own visions for the City as part of updating various neighborhood plans. The plan for East Rockville was adopted in March by the Mayor and Council and the process to create a vision for Lincoln Park has already begun.

As adults participate as member of advisory boards, the City also is learning about what is important to the communities' young residents through Maryvale's second grade art project.

For their work, Maryvale Elementary will receive a framed copy of the 1803 "Plan of Rockville." Participating students will be recognized by the Mayor and Council at a televised General Session on Monday, May 24. **RR**

Tedder Completes Appalachian Series Virginia Trips added to Outdoor Recreation Hikes

Rockville resident Stacy Tedder this spring became the most recent hiker to complete all seven segments of the Appalachian Trail hiking series organized by the Recreation and Parks Department's Division of Outdoor Programs.

Tedder is one of about a dozen area people who have completed all of the Maryland sections of the Trail.

"It took a couple of years, but I did it because I was interested in being outdoors and hiking," said Tedder.

Maryland hosts a 40-mile



Hiker Stacy Tedder

stretch of the Trail, which covers about 2,000 miles from Maine to Georgia. [Rockville's

Jason Hickey, 14, is the youngest person to complete the Maryland section.]

The City has operated the Maryland hiking series since 1995 and this year will expand the program with increasing popularity. There are seven-day hikes, each approximately six to seven miles in length. Hikers who complete all seven sections receive a handsome woven patch and a certificate recognizing this accomplishment.

The Maryland series includes Quirauk Mountain,

Swing Into a Better Golf Season at RedGate

Pro Instructor Marty Johnson Helps Area Golf Lovers Learn How to Improve Their Game

The first bursts of spring weather are sending a surge of golfers of all ability levels to courses across the region, and the green rolling hills of Rockville's RedGate Golf Course. And along with many of those golfers are pledges to improve their games by finally taking lessons.

Rockville area golfers have an advantage in trying to fulfill their pledge: They can take lessons from RedGate resident instructor, Marty Johnson.

Even those who have previously seen their scores improve after a few lessons from Johnson likely may not know that the humble, self-described "steady" golfer is regarded by his peers as one of the best instructors in the state.

Johnson is a 20-year golf veteran, a member of the Professional Golf Association and has routinely been named one of the top 10 golf instructors in Maryland by the respected magazine of the sport, *Golf Digest*.

On average, Johnson conducts 60-65 lessons a week at RedGate. From Tuesday through Sunday, beginning in late March and continuing through early November, golfers flock to Johnson to perfect their swing, stance and, most importantly, their attitudes toward attacking a golf course.

"Most people's perception of golf is wrong," he said. "It is all backwards. You are working with physics and you can't beat Mother Nature. When you change the way they think about



LEARN FROM THE BEST... RedGate teaching pro Marty Johnson is ranked as one of the top instructors in Maryland.

it, you begin to improve."

"RedGate is a great public golf course — it's well maintained and the location is huge," he said. "People come from all around to play here. And the course is challenging. There are a lot of different shots required."

RedGate is carved through a highly-wooded lot just a couple of miles from Town Center at 14500 Avery Road.

Individual lessons are offered in half-hour increments for the more than reasonable cost of \$35 per half-hour. A series of six sessions is discounted at \$170. Group sessions also are available.

For more information or to schedule a lesson at RedGate, visit www.rockvillemd.gov/redgate or call 240-314-8730. **RR**

26th Progressive Dinner House Tour

Tour and dine in unique and historic homes and gardens in Rockville at Peerless Rockville's 26th Annual Progressive Dinner and House Tour on May 15.

The elegant evening includes five courses and welcomes nearly 200 guests. Four groupings of guests enjoy each course in a different home. Seatings are at 4:30, 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. Reservations are required. The cost is \$75 for Peerless members, \$95 for non-members. This annual tradition is sponsored by Federal Reality Investment Trust, Brendel Restoration, Westat, That's Amore, Tower Oaks Lodge, eatZi's and Beltway Movers.

For more information call 301-424-5655 or visit www.peerlessrockville.org. **RR**

hikes do-able. We take care of the driving, dropping hikers off with an experienced leader at one end of the segment, and picking everyone up at the other end," said Susan MacPherson Klise, Rockville's outdoor programs assistant.

To find out more about this series and other outdoor program offerings, visit the City's Web site at www.rockvillemd.gov and click on the Rock Enroll section or contact Klise at 240-314-8641 or sklise@rockvillemd.gov. **RR**

which at 2,000 feet is the highest point in the Free State section of the Trail. Hikers run the ridge at Crampton Gap, home of the Civil War battle of South Mountain near Frederick. The Trail covers the historic C&O Canal along the Potomac River and crosses into West Virginia at Harpers Ferry.

Rockville will offer adventures extending into Virginia beginning this summer.

"Hiking with the City makes these point-to-point

In Brief

Senior Center Spring Bazaar on May 15

The Rockville Senior Center will host its annual Spring Bazaar and Yard Sale on Saturday, May 15, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Items for sale include handmade crafts, homemade refreshments, bake goods, household items, plants, computers and thrift and gift shop goods.

Those interested in volunteering to help with the raffle, bake sale or thrift shop during the event should call the Senior Center at 240-314-8800.

CALL 240-314-8800 FOR INFO

RISE Banquet

The City of Rockville will recognize approximately 40 middle and high school students and their family members on Saturday, May 8, at the annual Reaching Individual Self Empowerment (RISE) Banquet. The ceremony will take place at Rockville's Lincoln Park Community Center at 2 p.m.

The event also will commemorate the program's fifth anniversary of helping students achieve their full potential. Coordinated by the City's Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, RISE participants each receive a bi-weekly paycheck for helping to clean up

their community and assist fellow residents.

CALL 240-314-8313 FOR INFO

Time to Volunteer

Montgomery County's 2004 Volunteer Weekend is May 1-2. A variety of sites and projects will be available throughout Rockville. Join hundreds of neighbors for indoor and outdoor projects. All are approved for Student Service Learning credits. For more information, check www.montgomeryvolunteer.org.

CALL 240-777-2900 FOR INFO

Van Hollen To Host Town Hall Meeting

Rockville residents are invited to learn about the activities of the 108th Congress and express their opinions at a town hall meeting with Congressman Chris Van Hollen.

The event will take place Monday, May 24, from 7:30-9 p.m. at Gwendolyn Coffield Community Center Social Hall, 2450 Lyttonsville Rd. in Silver Spring.

CALL 301-424-3501 FOR INFO

Princess Tea Party

Children ages 3 through 10 with their mothers, grandmothers, or another special woman in their life are invited to celebrate

Mother's Day on Sunday, May 9, from 2-4 p.m. at a special Princess Tea Party at Twinbrook Recreation Center. The afternoon also will include crafts and games. The cost is \$5 for residents/ \$7 for non-residents. Register through Rock Enroll, course No. 10525.

CALL 240-314-8830 FOR INFO

Summer Jobs Open

The Department of Recreation and Parks is accepting applications for energetic, fun-long, creative and enthusiastic camp directors and playground leaders. A variety of roles are available. Ideal director candidates will have experience working with children. Most programs begin on June 21, with training prior to that. Salaries are competitive. For details on available positions and application instructions, call 240-314-5037.

CALL 240-314-5037 FOR INFO

Summer Camp Spots Still Available

There's still time to register for some of the area's best camps. Specialty camps available for student summer enrichment include ballet, Explorers, kaleidoscope, multi-sports, Odyssey, Quest and S.T.A.R.S. All of these programs include pool time at the Rockville Swim Center and transportation from many areas in Rockville. Most camps begin in June and

are 9 a.m.- 3 p.m., Monday through Friday (except July 4.)

In addition, youth of all ages can stay fit by signing up for summer sports camps such as Big Train Baseball, In-line Skating, Roller Hockey and Skills Lacrosse. Visit www.rockvillemd.gov, click on RockEnroll.

CALL 240-314-8620 FOR INFO

Be a Nature Center Naturalist or Volunteer

The Croydon Creek Nature Center is looking for a part-time paid naturalist and several adult volunteers to help with the numerous programs they conduct for children and adults. The positions offer flexible hours, sometimes including weekends.

Application forms are available on www.rockvillemd.gov/employment/jobapp.pdf. Mail forms to: Croydon Creek Nature Center, Attention: Valerie, 852 Avery Rd., Rockville, MD 20851.

CALL 240-314-5037 FOR INFO

City Survey Asks: Are You Prepared?

How prepared for emergencies are you? The City wants to know.

Watch for a survey in your utility bill or complete the survey online at www.rockville md.gov. Questions? Call 240-314-8116 or e-mail jgreenhalgh@rockvillemd.gov.

CALL 240-314-8116 FOR INFO



Red Gate Golf Course



TRY A ROUND AT REDGATE

People of all ages and skill levels are invited to experience one of the area's best golf locations — Rockville's RedGate Municipal Golf Course.

Nestled behind the trees on Avery Road conveniently located off of Route 28, the course features 18 challenging holes, a renown pro shop, snack bar and a practice area.

Frequent player promotions include the purchase of 15 rounds of 9 or 18 holes for the price of 10. The cost is only \$280 for residents/ \$310 for non-residents and can be played Monday-Thursday. For more information, including to reserve a tee time up to 14 days in advance, visit the City's website www.rockvillemd.gov/redgate or call 240-314-8730 for more information.

May is Asian-American Heritage Month

CITY

7 Bike to Work Day Join thousands of bike commuters for a celebration of clean, healthy and affordable transportation. 7-9 a.m. Pit Stop locations include the Red Brick Courthouse in Town Center and the Falls Grove Community Multimodal Transportation Center. Call 240-314-8626.

8 Reaching Individual Self Empowerment (RISE) Banquet 2 p.m. Lincoln Park Community Center

9 Princess Tea Party 2-4 p.m. Twinbrook Recreation Center. \$5 RES/ \$7 NR.

15 Off-Leash Dog Testing Tests to see if City dogs can be walked without a leash. Call to register as date is subject to change. Middle Lane Parking Lot. 240-314-8930.

15 Senior Center Spring Bazaar and Yard Sale, Rockville Senior Center, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

15 Peerless Rockville's 26th Progressive Dinner & House Tour Call Peerless Rockville for reservations at 301-762-0096. \$75 MEM/\$95 NM

15,22,29-Oct.30 Saturday Rockville Growers' Only Farmers Market 9 a.m.-1 p.m. New Location. Juror's Parking Lot at corner of E. Jefferson and Monroe St. Free parking.

29-31 Hometown Holidays Experience a new arts street festival and Taste of Rockville, blockbuster live entertainment, Ride for Rockville, a parade and more at this annual Memorial Day weekend of events in Rockville Town Center. Free. 240-314-5022.

ARTS

The Glenview Mansion Art Gallery and F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre are located in Rockville's Civic Center Park. Arts Hotline: 240-314-5006.

may

calendar of events

RES. = Residents • NR. = Non Residents • MEM. = Member • NM. = Non Member

1,7,8,14,15 Rockville Little Theatre "Run for your Life," by Ray Cooney at 8 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. For information, call 301-340-1417. Tickets \$12 general admission.

2-Jun.1 Glenview Mansion Art Gallery features the Rockville Art League - Juried Members Show. Opening Reception: Sunday, May 2, from 1-4 p.m. 240-314-8682.

2 Glenview Mansion Sunday Afternoon Concert featuring Rockville Singers (outreach group of the Rockville Chorus sponsored by the City of Rockville Department of Recreation and Parks) 3 p.m. Free. 240-314-8682

9,16 Rockville Little Theatre. "Run for your Life," by Ray Cooney at 2 p.m. F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre. For information, call 301-340-1417. Tickets \$12 general admission.

NATURE CENTER

All programs are at the Croydon Creek Nature Center, 852 Avery Road, Rockville Civic Center Park, unless noted. Registration is required. Register online at www.rockvillemd.gov or call 240-314-8770.

7 Morning Bird Walk The stream running through this large tract of forest provides the perfect habitat for many species to stop and rest on their way north. Note: This program is designed for birders with some experience but everyone is welcome. 7-9 a.m. Ages 18+. \$4 RES/\$5 NR

8 Pennsylvania Wildflower Trip Spend the afternoon exploring an area rich in wildflowers and limestone. Note: Cost includes leadership, snacks, water and transportation. Lunch is on your own. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Ages 16+. \$25 RES/\$31 NR

12 Tiny Tot Walk – Honeybees Find out about the wonders of this insect

through a funny story about a honey robber (who could that be?), songs, dance and game. 10:30-11:15 a.m. Ages 1 1/2-2 years. \$3 RES/\$4 NR

12 Tyke Hike – Honeybees 1-2 p.m. Ages 3-5. \$3 RES/\$4 NR

14 Morning Bird Walk 7-9 a.m. Ages 18+. \$4 RES/\$5 NR

14 April Showers - May Flowers Spring is a great time to look for wildflowers in the woods from violets to rue anemone to trout lily. Learn about the wonders of plants and hike for wildflowers. 1-2 p.m. Ages 3-6. \$3 RES/\$4 NR. 4-5 p.m. Ages 6+. \$3 RES/\$4 NR

20 Baby Animals Which animals are having babies this time of year? Learn who is having kits, pups, fawns, calves, goslings or chicks. 10-11 a.m. Ages 3-5. \$3 RES/\$4 NR

25 Meet the Wiggles in Your Backyard – Worms What's creepy and crawly and loves to eat leaves? WORMS. Dig around in the dirt, make a craft and take a hike. 10-11 a.m. Ages 3-5. \$3 RES/\$4 NR. 1-2 p.m.

26 Fawns The end of May heralds the arrival of many baby deer. Go on a search for fawns in the forest. Be prepared to hike about one mile. Designed for children who are homeschooled. 10-11 a.m. Ages 5-10. \$3 RES/\$4 NR

28 Spring Evening Night Hike Spring is full of wonderful evening sounds from birds to insects to amphibians and the air is filled with animal melodies. Stroll through the woods looking for what animals are out, as well as listening for the hidden ones. 8-9 p.m. All ages. \$2 RES/\$3 NR

SENIOR CENTER

4 Common Foot Problems 1-2 p.m. Free. To register, call 240-314-8810

5 Birthday Party 1:30-3 p.m. Register by April 30. Free

6 Clarify Computer Concepts 10-12 noon. Registration required. \$6 MEM/\$8 NM

10,25&27 Beginners Intro To Computers Registration required

11 Help Menu for Windows 1-3 p.m. Registration required. Free

12 In-Person Trip Lottery

13 How To Improve Your Balance 1-2 p.m. Free. To register, call 240-314-8810

13 Medicare Prescription Drug Program 10-12 noon. Free. To register, call 240-314-8810

17,19,24 E-mail 10-12 noon. \$15 MEM/\$19 NM Registration required

19 Classical Music 1-2:30 p.m. Register by May 12. Free

18&20 Windows-Paint 1-3 p.m. Registration required. \$6 MEM/ \$8 NM

20 New Techniques in Surgery 1-2 p.m. Free. To register, call 240-314-8810

25 Wise Use of Over-the-Counter Medicines 1 p.m. Free. To register, call 240-314-8810

25 Glass Fusing-Intermediate 12:15-2:15 p.m. Register by May 12. \$30 MEM/ \$38 NM

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

All meetings are at City Hall unless otherwise noted.

1 Board of Appeals, 9:30 a.m.

11 Commission on the Environment, 7:30 p.m.

19 Human Services Advisory Commission, 7:30 p.m. Twinbrook Community Recreation Center Annex

12 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

12 Cultural Arts Commission, 7 p.m.

17 Sign Review Board, 4 p.m. (held as needed)

18 Rockville Seniors, Inc., 1 p.m. Senior Center

18 Rockville Economic Development, Inc. Town Center Action Team, 7 p.m. Red Brick Courthouse

19 Rockville Housing Enterprises, 6:30 p.m., 14 Moore Dr.

20 Historic District Commission, 7 p.m.

20 Rockville Sister City Corporation, 7:30 p.m.

20 Senior Citizens Commission, 10 a.m., Senior Center

25 Traffic and Transportation Commission, 7:30 p.m.

26 Rockville Economic Development, Inc. Board Meeting, 7:30 a.m. 401 N. Washington St. (call 301-315-8096)

26 Planning Commission, 7 p.m.

26 Human Rights Commission, 7:30 p.m.

27 Recreation and Parks Advisory Board, 7 p.m., RedGate Golf Course

Rockville Up Close: REDI for Economic Development

Residents help shape Rockville through involvement with neighborhood and civic associations and participation on Mayor and Council-appointed Boards and Commissions. On a regular basis, Rockville Up Close will take an in-depth look at these organizations.

Greater Rockville Partnership is now being called Rockville Economic Development, Inc., or REDI, and while the organization is changing its name and Web site address, its services and objectives remain the same.

“Our mission remains developing new business and stimulating economic growth for the City of Rockville, helping new companies succeed, and promoting those that are estab-

lished,” said Sally Sternbach, executive director for REDI. “The new name emphasizes the purpose of our organization and the services we provide.”

Created in 1997 by the City of Rockville, the economic development organization is a public-private partnership. Strongly supported by City funding, the organization was designed to strengthen and broaden the economic base in Rockville through business recruitment, retention and expansion efforts.

The close working relationship between public and private sectors provides valuable assis-



tance and direction to existing and potential businesses in Rockville.

The new name comes with a renewed commitment to the companies in Rockville. It also comes during a time of exciting change within the city. One source of renewed vibrancy in the city is the Town Center development, a mixed-use project that will bring new residential, retail, restaurant, entertainment, cultural and office space to Rockville’s central business district.

“Our name change reflects the excitement happening in the city,” said Albert Lampert, chair

of the Board of Directors for REDI and president of Aspen Systems, a Rockville-based information management company.

“Rockville is a place where both businesses and families can enjoy a welcoming, supportive and nurturing environment,” he said.

The organization also is launching a new Web site this month to better market Rockville as a destination for new and relocating businesses and to promote the city’s quality of life.

For further information on Rockville Economic Development, Inc., call 301-315-8096 or visit www.rockvilleREDI.org. [RR](#)

Volunteer Time: Interfaith Clothing Center



There are infinite ways to share talent, experience, expertise and time with individuals or organizations that could use assistance by volunteering in the City. Each month “Volunteer Time” will highlight a different volunteer opportunity to promote an interest in giving back to the community.

The old cliché goes, “One person’s unwanted items are truly another’s treasure.” But when it comes to the clothes and household items donated to Rockville’s Interfaith Clothing Center, those items can be important in improving the quality of life for some Rockville adults and children.

The Interfaith Clothing Center, located at Rockville at 751 Twinbrook Parkway in the former Edwin W. Broome Middle School, could not operate without the help of volunteers.

The nonprofit organization is operated by the Community Ministries of Montgomery County and is supported by the City of

Rockville, the City of Gaithersburg, Montgomery County, private foundations, individuals, churches, synagogues and the United Way.

This time of year, when residents all over the City are devoted to spring cleaning, is a particularly busy time at the center and volunteers of a few hours or more or highly welcomed.

Volunteers sort the numerous goods donated and prepare them for direct distribution to thou-

sands of low-income Montgomery County residents free of charge. [There also is an Interfaith Clothing Center in Gaithersburg.]

“By providing some of the basic necessities free of charge, we enable our clients to use their scarce financial resources for other pressing needs, including rent, food, transportation and healthcare,” said Julie Maltzman, director of the Interfaith Clothing Center. “We are proud to provide the link between people in our

community who have things they no longer need or want with people in the same community who are in desperate need of the same items.”

The Center accepts a wide variety of household items, except computers and large furniture. Clothes and shoes for men, women and children are needed, as are children’s books and houseware items ranging from curtains to vacuums.

“It’s like a department store,” said Jean Luke, a volunteer for more than two decades.

Household donations are accepted Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Rockville. Volunteers are needed at the Rockville location primarily on Saturday and Monday afternoons and Thursday mornings and are asked to call 301-424-3796.

For more information, visit <http://www.communityministrymc.org/IFCab.htm>. [RR](#)

30th Anniversary: Citizen’s Forum

In 1964, as the finishing touches were being put on the Capital Beltway, another important innovation was in the construction process for Rockville residents. That was when the City of Rockville became the first in Maryland to allow citizens to routinely address the Mayor and Council about any issue on their minds at General Sessions.

“Yes, we are becoming a big city, but Citizens Forum reminds us that we still have that little town feel.”

— Mayor Larry Giammo


This open segment of the meetings was called “Citizen’s Forum,” and the name, and tradition, continue today.

Any citizen, even those who do not live in the City, can address the Mayor and Council for up to three minutes (five minutes if representing a group or organization) at General Sessions. The Mayor and Council conduct General Sessions at least once (often twice) each month on Monday nights starting at 7 p.m. at City Hall. All General Sessions are televised live on The Rockville Channel.

Although some other jurisdictions now allow citizens to speak at meetings, many require speakers to sign up in advance of the meetings. Rockville still allows anyone to gain access to the podium simply by raising their hand and being recognized by the Mayor, although speakers who do sign up in advance get to speak first.

“Citizens Forum is not only a Rockville tradition, it is an important element of our government,” said Mayor Larry Giammo. “No one in Rockville can ever say they were excluded or could not be heard. Some people say that there are nights where a full room of speakers can make our meetings very long, but in the end, this is the way we choose to do things. Yes, we are becoming a big city, but Citizens Forum reminds us that we still have that little town feel.” [RR](#)

TRC 11	THE ROCKVILLE CHANNEL MAY PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE						
	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
12 Midnight until meeting ends	Planning Commission ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Planning Commission ▼
6 am	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
6:30 am	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline
7 am	Permit Process	Manager's Proposed Budget	Rockville City Government	Manager's Proposed Budget	Exploring Rockville's Web Site	Permit Process	Permit Process
7:30 am	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
8 am	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
8:30 am	Mayor & Council ▼	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Mayor & Council ▼
9 am	▼	Diversity in the City ▼	Manager's Proposed Budget	Rockville Concert Band Children's Concert ▼	Permit Process	Diversity in the City ▼	▼
9:30 am	▼	▼	Permit Process	▼	Exploring Rockville's Web Site	▼	▼
10 am	▼	Every 15 Minutes	Red Light, Green Light: Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety	Diversity in the City ▼	Rockville City Government	Exploring Rockville's Web Site	▼
10:30 am	▼	Caregivers: Adult Homeless	Exploring Rockville's Web Site	▼	Rockville & the Council of Governments	Red Light, Green Light: Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety	▼
11 am	Cityline	Rockville City Government	Croydon Creek Nature Center	Manager's Proposed Budget	Every 15 Minutes	Manager's Proposed Budget	Cityline
11:30 am	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
12 noon	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
12:30 pm	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline	Cityline
1 pm until meeting ends	Mayor & Council ▼	Planning Commission ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Planning Commission ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Planning Commission ▼
4 pm	Rockville Concert Band Children's Concert ▼	▼	Manager's Proposed Budget	Exploring Rockville's Web Site	▼	Diversity in the City ▼	▼
4:30 pm	▼	Exploring Rockville's Web Site	Rockville Concert Band Children's Concert ▼	Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety	Permit Process	▼	Permit Process
5 pm	Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety	Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety	▼	Diversity in the City ▼	Rockville City Government	Manager's Proposed Budget	Rockville & Council of Govts.
5:30 pm	Exploring Rockville's Web Site	Croydon Creek Nature Center	Caregivers: Adult Homeless	▼	Croydon Creek Nature Center	Exploring Rockville's Web Site	Every 15 Minutes
6 pm	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
6:30 pm	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
7 pm	Planning Commission ▼	Mayor & Council ▼	Diversity in the City ▼	Planning Commission ▼	Manager's Proposed Budget	Mayor & Council ▼	Rockville Concert Band Children's Concert ▼
7:30 pm	▼	▼	▼	▼	Red Light, Green Light: Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety	▼	▼
8 pm	▼	▼	Caregivers: Adult Homeless	▼	Diversity in the City ▼	▼	Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety
8:30 pm	▼	▼	Every 15 Minutes	▼	▼	▼	Diversity in the City ▼
9 pm	▼	▼	Manager's Proposed Budget	▼	Exploring Rockville's Web Site	▼	▼
9:30 pm	▼	▼	Cityline	▼	Cityline	▼	Cityline
10 pm	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report	City Hall Report
10:30 pm	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review	Mayor & Council Review
11 pm	Manager's Proposed Budget	Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety	Exploring Rockville's Web Site	Diversity in the City ▼	Manager's Proposed Budget	Every 15 Minutes	Permit Process
11:30 pm	Caregivers: Adult Homeless	Every 15 Minutes	Croydon Creek Nature Center	▼	Rockville City Government	Exploring Rockville's Web Site	Croydon Creek Nature Center



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